



*The South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study*







## Vision Statement

The Anacostia River corridor will unite the city economically, physically, and socially as the center of 21st century Washington and a cornerstone of the national capital region. The destiny of the city as the nation's capital and a premier world city is inextricably linked to re-centering the growth of the city on the Anacostia waterfront and making the long-neglected parks, environment, and infrastructure a national priority. The waterfront will bridge every aspect of Washington's urban life in the next century and be the hallmark of a new civic identity. Transforming the Anacostia to become the center of 21st century Washington will demand nothing less than a fundamental redefinition of the image, identity, and growth pattern of the city and the complex federal, city, and regional relationships that have defined the city's existence since its founding.

The South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study identifies improvements to South Capitol Street, the Frederick Douglass Memorial Bridge, New Jersey Avenue, and transit, bicycle, pedestrian, and intermodal facilities in the corridor that can contribute to transforming the Anacostia waterfront.



ANTHONY A. WILLIAMS  
MAYOR

September 2003

Dear Friend of the Anacostia Waterfront:

Three years ago representatives from eighteen Federal and District agencies met on the Anacostia River to join me in signing the agreement creating Anacostia Waterfront Initiative. This historic partnership seeks to connect communities across the river, clean the water, bring people to the waterfront and make the river a new center of growth for the District.

The District Department of Transportation has begun to meet these objectives with the South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study. As presented in the study, the challenge is great for all parties. In particular, the current South Capitol Street/Frederick Douglass Bridge and associated highways, isolates people from this great resource.

Since much of the infrastructure, including South Capitol Street Bridge, has reached the end of its useful life, we have complementing opportunities: replacing the South Capitol Street Bridge will help fulfill the goals of AWI. The study proposes a new bridge that is the centerpiece for a grand boulevard and a fitting gateway to our nation's capital. In addition, to divert traffic from the bridge, the study recommends a new tunnel and interchange from I-295 and Suitland Parkway to I-395 and downtown.

This study could not have been completed and AWI cannot be realized without congressional and federal agency backing. In particular, I want to thank Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton and Congressman Steny Hoyer for bringing the public's and Congress's attention to South Capitol Street's problems and potential. Support from the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration has also been invaluable.

Reconstruction of the South Capitol Street corridor is essential to implementing AWI. This study is a key step in assuring that future transportation improvements will benefit the corridor's neighborhoods, the District of Columbia and the nation's capital.

Sincerely,

  
Anthony A. Williams  
Mayor

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



Office of the Director

September 2003

Dear Mayor Williams:

I am proud to present the District Department of Transportation's South Capitol Gateway and Corridor Improvement Study, a major step forward to realizing your vision for the Anacostia River as embodied in the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative.

Building on previous work by other agencies, specifically the urban design concepts from the National Capital Planning Commission and the D.C. Office of Planning, the study recommends replacing the 1950s South Capitol/Frederick Douglass Bridge and nearby highway with a new bridge and tunnel. The new signature bridge will transform the South Capitol Street corridor into a draw for people to live, work and enjoy the waterfront and the river. It will be sensitively designed to connect travelers and the neighborhoods to the river. The new tunnel and interchange will funnel commuter traffic to the city center.

Thoughtful planning, new design and construction techniques, and innovative contracting methods will allow us to build the bridge, tunnel, boulevard and light rail with reduced impacts to the community and environment. We now have the technologies to reduce noise, shorten construction time, reduce impacts to traffic, and improve the quality of storm water run-off. We intend to employ the innovation available to us and foster new innovation in promoting the health of our community and environment.

Completion of this study has been possible through the partnership of the Interagency Coordinating Committee, the U.S. Department of Transportation, including the Federal Highway Administration, and the District and Federal agencies participating in AWI.

We look forward to the challenges ahead and to helping the communities along the Anacostia realize their potential.

Sincerely,

Dan Tangherlini  
Director